

Las Cruces, NM – Today, Congressman Harry Teague announced a grant that will benefit small businesses and directly create and save jobs in Dona Ana county. The recipient, Community Action Agency of Southern New Mexico, will use the funding to provide intense, one-on-one business development counseling as well as training and technical assistance for child care and other small businesses. The funding, nearly \$100,000, will create 18 new jobs and save 7 positions. The funding is awarded through the USDA Rural Development's Rural Business Enterprise Grant program, which aims to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents.

"This is the type of targeted investment we need because it directly creates new jobs for New Mexicans, and as small businesses are allowed to develop and grow in their trade they keep our communities thriving," Harry Teague said. "As a small business owner, I believe that this kind of intimate counseling and training will allow local businesses to expand, creating jobs in the process. Small businesses can take advantage of programs like these to gain the skills necessary to succeed and flourish."

A small business owner for over 30 years, Harry Teague has focused on reaching out to small businesses throughout southern New Mexico. This week, he is hosting a series of Small Business Resource Workshops in cities like Las Cruces, Roswell and Carlsbad. The forums connect small business owners with federal and local government agencies and lender groups to provide the opportunity to ask questions and learn more about the resources available to support small business efforts.

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